**NATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR A DIGITAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES**

On 24 October the Catalan ministries of the Presidency, Governance and Business and Knowledge, the four Catalan provincial councils, the two municipalist associations (ACM and FMC) and the LOCALRET consortium signed the [National Agreement for a Digital Society](http://www.catalangovernment.eu/pres_gov/AppJava/government/infographics/297254/digital-society.html). The information given on the key points to be developed stated right from the start that the Digital Revolution is already well underway in a clearly post-industrial moment. It goes without saying that starting off this type of document with such a powerful historical awakening should not leave us untouched. The agreement comes about then with the historic vocation to face up to the profound change that is the ‘digitalisation’ of society. In this respect, digitalising Catalan society doesn’t mean making a digital photocopy of ourselves to interact in the social media, rather it means changing the attitude of people, the Administration and university and productive activity. A new digital attitude towards the changing, liquid world we live in, where citizen participation is greater, the Administration is more efficient and simple, and the data industry is more powerful and enriching. A far-reaching project that is strengthened by an act involving many of Catalonia’s structural organisations. We can debate whether a national agreement of this nature should be signed on paper, as it has been, or whether digital signing would have been a declaration of intent. But if we begin our analysis like that, we’ll start to hear that same old ‘Oh, here come the archivists with their usual nonsense’.

The National Agreement has four main objectives. First, to create strategic infrastructure for a society that is more connected than ever. Second, to have a more open and innovative Administration. Third, to apply the necessary security to prevent any cyber attack that threatens infrastructures and administration. And four, with all this done, productive activity must be directed towards digital knowledge and the creation and management and exploitation of data, opening up a global market of great competitive capacity.

The National Agreement defines six areas of action to achieve the four objectives. Firstly, to deploy the SmartCAT strategy to enable innovation in the public services, boost economic growth and foster a smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive society. Secondly, to deploy and manage in a coordinated fashion technology and electronic communications infrastructures that ensure equal opportunities for Catalan regions, cities, towns, companies and citizens. Thirdly, to adopt measures regarding technological tools to reinforce cybersecurity and protection of the rights of individuals and businesses. Fourthly, to deploy simpler, more streamlined Administration aimed at the basic needs of citizens, strengthening the role of the Catalan Open Government Consortium. Fifthly, to develop industry 4.0, new professional profiles to support and promote a disruptive change towards a stronger, more productive model. Finally, the sixth area is probably the most necessary. To incorporate in the design, construction and implementation of the agreement towns and cities, working groups from the public world and civil society, and representatives of the academic and business worlds. This will ensure that the agreement is implemented homogeneously and with greater consensus.

In view of this agreement, the AAC has decided to express its interest in taking an active part to all parties initially involved. We are at the disposal of a national project to which we can contribute all our professional expertise and all the knowledge gained of access to information, digital records management and the transparency of administrative and government action. We are available to take part in any working groups that are organised and to give impetus to the project by explaining the advantages of the agreement to all our members, with the total conviction that we are an invaluable asset to gaining a broad understanding of public and private organisations. We are at the disposal of an agreement that requires logical analysis of the behaviour of processes, substantial improvement in the way organisations work and order, measure and control data, information and the documentation they generate. Records management, as a sustainable method of control of quality information. Archives, as coordinating pools of discernment and good practice in the development of digital administration.

In this regard we also urge the Catalan Ministry of Culture to take an active part in this project, to make the Catalan Archives System available for the disruptive exercise in social revolution that thinking digitally represents. Digitalisation should be understood as a strategy, a project and an attitude. A strategy that enables us to convert all document production processes into a one-hundred per cent digital flux that includes administrative and historical archives in this management and also in the long-term digital preservation of the memory of Catalan society. A joint project in which archives participate actively at all levels, with towns and cities, companies and citizens, and specific action to disseminate ideology, thus contributing to and accompanying this agreement. And an attitude, assumable for the heads of the Catalan Archives System but, above all, by archivists and records managers in general, aimed at promoting the constant updating of knowledge and which shows our ability to adapt to crucial moments such as the present time.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy and productive 2017!!